

Letter to Our Voters:

Know the Facts for November 2020 General Election:



Voting is the first building block of a community and a country.
Democracy only survives when voters feel the process is just & fair.
This is expressed by casting your ballot.
Working together will make the
2020 November General Election successful.



As the November 2020 General Election approaches, your county board of elections are doing everything possible to make sure your voice is heard through voting. Please **BE AWARE** – there are groups, etc. sending you information, forms, etc. that may not be valid in NC elections. **Any County Board of Elections will not send you any form or information unless you have requested it.** Some laws have changed just for the 2020 November election and you need to know the facts. If you suspect anything you have received is fraudulent, please contact the County Board of Elections.

To ease concerns about COVID, your County BOE assures you precautions will be in place at the polls, such as but not limited to: officials wearing gloves, face masks, face shields, desk sneeze shields, disinfecting areas, etc. We also **need more election workers at the polls.** If interested, please contact us. **There will be lines in-person at the one-stop early voting sites and Election Day sites.** If you do not want to stand in line and practice social distancing during in-person voting, you do have the option of requesting that your ballot be mailed to you. *Voters need to take responsibility to know their options, laws, rules, and procedures for voting.* Voters should prepare before voting in the election by updating new addresses; if not registered, register by Oct. 9, 2020; research candidates; bring umbrellas, etc. You will be standing in line and in most places the line will be outside. Curbside voting is offered for only for those individuals who due to age or disability are not able to enter the voting enclosure without assistance and sign a legal affidavit attesting to this requirement. COVID fear is not a legal/valid reason for voting curbside. **Curbside voting is not drive-thru voting, a drop-off, or pick-up line.** All individuals in the vehicle have to stay in the vehicle at all times. Voters will need to be patient. We want everyone to be able to vote safely, accurately, and efficiently by whatever option you have chosen to vote in.

3 WAYS TO VOTE IN NORTH CAROLINA:

1- Absentee by-mail (ballots will start being mailed, if requested, by the middle of September)

2-One-Stop Early Voting (in-person voting starting Oct. 15 and ending Oct. 31. Sites/Times TBA)

3-Election Day (in-person voting on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open at 6:30 am and close at 7:30 pm)

Facts:

- If you are already registered, you do not need to register again. To ensure your registration is correct, go to www.cravenvote.com or www.ncsbe.gov or call your BOE (Craven Co, BOE 252-636-6610)
- Absentee voting is not new to North Carolina. No excuse absentee voting started in 2001.
- Any North Carolina **registered** voter qualified to vote in an election may request and receive an absentee by-mail ballot for any election in which absentee voting is allowed from their county of residence. **All registered voters may request an absentee by-mail ballot for the November 2020 General election until 5 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020**
- The request has to be on the 2020 State Absentee Ballot Request Form
- **No special circumstance or reason or excuse is needed**
- Military or overseas voters living outside of the county of their home of record have special rights under the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Go to www.fvap.gov for more information.

The 2020 State Absentee Request Form:

Where to get valid forms?

- Craven County Board of Elections at 406 Craven St., New Bern, NC
- www.cravenvote.com (under forms-you can fill in the form, print, sign, and return to the County Board of Elections)
- www.ncsbe.gov (under Vote; Vote Absentee By-Mail)
- Call the County Board of Elections and have the form mailed to you. (Craven County Board of Elections 252-636-6610)

Fill out the form completely.

- **A blank form has to be completed and signed (or voter's mark) by the registered voter or a near relative or legal guardian only.** Power of Attorney is not recognized in NC elections. A near relative is the voter's spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent or stepchild.
- A pre-filled out absentee ballot request form **from a third party or group is not valid in NC**
- The voter's name, valid residential address, date of birth, and either their Drivers License number or last four digits of their Social Security number have to be provided
- The address where to mail the ballot (even if same as residential address) has to be provided

What if the voter needs help completing the request form?

- If assistance is needed completing the request form due to blindness, disability, or inability to read or write, and a near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter may get help from another person, who must list their name and address on the form
- Voters in a facility (a hospital, clinic, nursing home or adult care home) may contact their County Board of Elections to request the assistance from a Multi-partisan Assistance Team (MAT). A MAT can help a voter in a facility complete their absentee request form.

Returning the absentee request form

- The completed and signed request form must be delivered **only by the voter or near relative/legal guardian** by:
 1. Mail service (U.S. Postal Service, DHL, FedEx or UPS)
 2. In-person to the County Board of Elections (if delivering other than your own, must log in)
 3. E-mail (cravenboe@cravencountync.gov)
 4. Fax (252-636-6687)
 5. For voters in a facility, a MAT may return the request form

The deadline to request an absentee-by-mail ballot is 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 27, 2020. IMPORTANT: No person other than the voter or their near relative/legal guardian, or an MAT, may possess or return a completed absentee request form.

For more information go to www.cravenvote.com, call 252-636-6610, or visit us at 406 Craven St. New Bern.

Sincerely,

Melanie M. Wray

Craven County Director of Elections

